

APPROVED: Meeting No. 06-92

ATTEST: *Sharon A. Gran*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 03-92

January 27, 1992

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in General Session in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on January 27, 1992, at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow (Mayor Pro Tem)

Councilmember James F. Coyle

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

ABSENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan (Family Illness)

Councilmember David Robbins (Business Travel)

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer, City Clerk Sharon Gran and City Attorney Paul Glasgow.

Upon motion of Councilmember Coyle, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Councilmember Krasnow was designated as Mayor Pro Tem for the evening's meeting.

Re: City Manager's Report

1. The City had its first snow storm of the season this past weekend. Salting and plowing were done in a timely and effective manner.

2. The first meeting of the City's Stormwater Management Task Force will be held tomorrow evening at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

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3. In connection with agenda item 7C, there are some corrections to the memorandum from the Finance Director. At the bottom of page 1, the words "Board of Supervisors" should be replaced with "County Council;" on page 2, under the section, "Property Taxes," it should read that property tax revenues received by December 31 were *up* by 5.5% from last year.

4. A staff coordinator has been appointed to ensure City compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act which went into effect on January 26. The Mayor and Council will be discussing the ramifications of this law in a worksession with the Human Rights Commission on February 3.

5. Last week, the City of Rockville received the "Excellence in City Financial Management Award" from the U.S. Conference of Mayors and AMBAC Indemnity Corporation. *(Videotape of the awards presentation was shown.)*

On behalf of the City, Councilmember Coyle accepted this award which included a \$10,000 grant from AMBAC Indemnity Corporation to be used to support the internship of a public administration or finance student in the City's finance department.

Rockville was cited for its improved bond rating at a time when 250 cities have faced a reduction in their bond ratings. Councilmember Coyle congratulated staff on this achievement, in particular, City Manager Bruce Romer and Finance Director Kevin Deckard.

Re: Proclamation declaring the
month of February as **Heart
Month** in Rockville.

Proclamation No. 01-92

By a unanimous vote of the Mayor Pro Tem and Council, the month of February was declared **Heart Month** in Rockville. Councilmember Marrinan read the Proclamation, the full text of which can be found in Proclamation File No. 7 of the Mayor and Council. Gordon Whitt,

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Rockville Branch Chairman, American Heart Association, accepted the Proclamation. Mr. Whitt invited everyone to attend the "Heart's Delight" Ball on February 14 at Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza. Nutritionist Ruth Devoe gave a short briefing on healthy meals and served "heart healthy" desserts to the Mayor Pro Tem and Council.

Re: Citizens' Forum

At this time, the Mayor Pro Tem opened the meeting to hear from any citizen who wished to address the Mayor and Council.

There being no citizens wishing to be heard, the Mayor Pro Tem closed the Citizens' Forum portion of the meeting.

Re: Appointments

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Laurel Anchors and Jeffrey McCrehan were appointed to two-year terms on the Advisory Commission on Public Education.

Upon motion of Councilmember Coyle, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Robert Bender was reappointed and George Kulstad was appointed to two-year terms on the Economic Development Council.

Re: Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the minutes of Meeting No. 01-92 (January 13, 1992) were approved, as written.

Re: Consent Agenda

Upon motion of Councilmember Coyle, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the following Consent Agenda items were approved:

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- A. Award of Bid No. 62-92, Community Park Shelters Project, Restroom Renovations and Concrete Deck Replacements at Maryvale, Hillcrest and Calvin Parks, to Smith and Haines Company for the low bid amount of \$209,215.

Funding in the amount of \$225,874 has been budgeted for this project.

- B. Acceptance of Text Amendment Application No. T-123-91, Rockville Chamber of Commerce, Applicant.

Amendment to the sign regulations section of the Zoning Ordinance to allow the Sign Review Board to grant modifications for freestanding identification signs which contain the name, logo or trademark of more than one entity. If accepted by the Mayor and Council for processing, this text amendment will be transmitted to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation.

- C. Receipt of December financial reports summarizing the financial results of City operations for the period from July 1, 1991 through December 30, 1991.

Re: Approval of staff schedule for compliance with State of Maryland mandate for diversion of Water Plant Discharge from the Potomac River.

The State has mandated that our Water Treatment Plant

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must divert the sand, silt and clay removed from the river water during the treatment process and not return it to the Potomac. The schedule calls for a plant to complete diversion by the spring of 1994.

The City Manager advised that this action represents the beginning of a multi-year project to clean up pollutants that discharge into the Potomac as a result of water treatment. The State's mandate that the City's current permit for regulating discharge from the Water Treatment Plant to the Potomac River be updated is not unique to Rockville. This is the same standard being applied across the State to water treatment facilities of any significant size. The plan is to eliminate the discharge of Water Treatment Plant residue and conform to a schedule which would coincide with that of WSSC (Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission) which is under the same mandate.

The schedule for compliance has several elements, the first of which is to complete analysis of alternatives and engineering selection by June of 1992, at which time design would commence and be completed by April 1993. The construction contract should be awarded by July 1993 with a completion date of June 1994.

Councilmember Coyle questioned the reference to Rockville's current discharge permit which does not control "suspended solids and turbidity levels in the waste stream." He was advised that these are not toxics but result from the water filtration process.

As to the estimated cost of this change in technology, the City Manager advised that it would be in the \$1 to \$2 million range. Councilmember Marrinan inquired as to whether the proposed time frame could be extended in view of the significant costs involved. It is conceivable that a lot of

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dates are eventually going to change, and the City Manager indicated that it is important that the City show its willingness to move forward.

Discussion followed regarding how the costs would be absorbed for this project as well as a clarification that the new process will remove particles, such as sand, clay and silt, deemed undesirable to re-enter the water. As to the disposition of these particles, a determination will be made upon completion of the analysis.

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, staff's proposed schedule for compliance with the State of Maryland mandate for diversion of Water Plant Discharge from the Potomac River was approved.

Re: Staff report regarding parking availability at Courthouse Square.

This report will focus on a request to evaluate the feasibility of providing additional parking as part of the soon-to-be-completed Courthouse Square Improvement Project.

At the last general session, staff was requested to review the feasibility of adding three additional spaces for short-term use in Courthouse Square. *(A video was shown depicting the area discussed.)* It was noted that short-term parking is currently taking place by the gazebo, but staff feels that this detracts from the plaza appearance and also represents an incursion of vehicles in a pedestrian area.

The space directly in front of the Judicial Center circle is also being used as short-term parking. There was general agreement that three spaces can be accommodated there without impeding

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traffic. Councilmember Marrinan asked if the addition of these three temporary, short-term parking spaces in Courthouse Square should be referred to the Planning Commission for their input.

Mayor Pro Tem Krasnow recommended, and the Council agreed, that a decision be deferred until the meeting of February 10 as to whether to refer this to the Planning Commission. In the interim, it was suggested that:

- o staff determine the effectiveness of the four new spaces approved last year; and
- o the Town Center Business Association be queried to determine if the suggested location for the three temporary spaces would be viable.

With the road closed to through traffic, Mayor Pro Tem Krasnow commented that some individuals may not be aware that traffic is permitted in Courthouse Square for drop-off purposes. She suggested that this information be better publicized.

Re: FYI/Correspondence

Fire Tax District Consolidation

It was noted by Councilmember Coyle that individuals are writing on behalf of the City to voice their opposition to the consolidation. Residents were encouraged to submit their comments to the County Council prior to the record closing on January 30.

Re: New Business

Project Status Reports

It was agreed that these reports can be generated once a month or even less frequently if circumstances so dictate.

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Science and Technology Commission

Councilmember Coyle indicated that the Commission is seeking support for their Science Day awards and there was also support from the Commission for the creation of a science center. It was noted that the Mayor and Council would be meeting with the Rockville Consortium for Science to discuss their plans for a science center.

RESCUE Magazine

Councilmember Coyle distributed copies of the January/February 1992 edition which features the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department.

Hometown Holidays

The use of Courthouse Square for the antique show was discussed. Staff believes that this is both feasible and desirable. Not only would this site capture the post-parade crowd, but it would give staff an extra day to return the Middle Lane site to its general use as a parking area. The Courthouse Square site is large enough for the antique show and areas could be set aside in the Square for food vendors, entertainment and portions of the children's activities. It was also discussed and agreed that use of the Victoria courtyard should be explored.

Upon motion of Councilmember Coyle, duly seconded and unanimously passed, staff was instructed to proceed to plan the Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day) activities in Courthouse Square subject to agreement from all necessary parties.

Excellence in Financial Management Award

Councilmember Coyle again congratulated all City staff for providing residents with the best service possible at the lowest cost; the award recognizes this achievement.

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Tax Duplication

The City Manager informed the Council of Mayor Duncan's request for a report which would focus on those services the City is performing which are subject to tax duplication payment in lieu of Montgomery County providing the services. These services are to be identified as well as prioritized as to which could be best and/or most easily transferred back to Montgomery County. Staff will submit this report to the Mayor and Council as soon as possible.

Re: Next Meeting - February 10

The next meeting general session will be held on February 10.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m., to convene again in Worksession at 7:30 p.m. on February 3, 1992, or at the call of the Mayor.